THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Estimated availability of gas has been fully committed to downstream users.

(c) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance for Development of Ambedkar Villages in Karnataka

2588. SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance to various States and particularly to Karnataka for the development of Ambedkar villages;

(b) if so, the total amount sanctioned, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have issued any directions to the States in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) and (b). Financial assistance was released during 1990-91 to 3 States namely Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for taking up special projects in connection with the Centenary Celebrations of Baba Saheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, based on their demands. The details are as follows:-

Name of State	*Amount sanctioned*	*Purpose for which sanctioned*
1. Kerala	Rs. 81.00 lakhs	Integrted development of rural habitats of Scheduled Castes into model settlements known as Ambedkar Gramams.
2. Tamil Nadu	Rs. 50.00 lakhs	Financial help for leather procurement centres and training centres for Adi Dravidar engaged in leather goods and manufacturing and financial help for the projects of stone crushers, pump sets, lorries, etc. for the cooperative Societies etc. for Stone crushing.
3. Karnataka	Rs. 50.00 lakhs	Rehabilitation of Devadasis, skill development for SCs and economic programmes for rural mothers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Potato Production

2589. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of potato produced in the country during 1989-90 and 1990-91; and

(b) the yield level per hectare during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The quantum of potato production in the country during 1989-90 and 1990-91 was respectively 147.7 and 152.5 lakh tonnes.

(b) The yield of potato per hectare during the last two years was as under:

Yield	*(Kgs. per hectare)*
1989-90	15714
1990-91	16195

Orange Cultivation

2590. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote Orange cultivation in the country;

(b) whether any extension centres are established to assist the farmers to grow Orange;

(c) if so, the places where these Centres have been set up;

(d) whether the climatic conditions and soil of Pallahara area in Orissa is suitable for growing Orange; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to assist the local farmers in this area to grow Orange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Goverment of India are implementing two scheme for the development of fruit trees which include oranges also,

(i) establishment of nutritional gardens in rural areas;

(ii) Central Sector Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical and Arid Zone Fruits

besides, the State Governments also provide assistance for development of different fruit crops including oranges.

(b) and (c). Central Government is not establishing extension centres to assist farmers to grow oranges. However, State Governments are having extension services for different crops which include oranges also.

(d) and (e). Yes, Sir, Quality planting material is raised in the departmental farms and nurseries. The farmers are being provided technical known-now and other inputs.

Cement Project in Bhutan

2591. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement a Cement Project at Nanglam in Bhutan under the Aid Bhutan Programme; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in that regard and the likely date of its completion?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir. At the request of the Royal Government of Bhutan, India would take up the implementation of a Cement Plant at